

**Henriques, Roberta**

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**Sent:** 27 January 2020 17:22  
**To:** Planning  
**Subject:** Channing School Application No 2019/5756/P

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We wish to object to the application by Channing School to make permanent the temporary opening in the boundary wall of the junior school running up Highgate Hill. Our reasons for objecting are:

1. The continuous historic wall is a major feature of Highgate Village. It is one of the several village walls which lead up to the unique 'hill top' village which is Highgate. (The others are the boundary wall of Highgate West Cemetery running up Swains Lane, the long wall on Highgate West Hill, the walls on both sides of the road near the top of Cholmeley Park – now sadly breached, again by Channing despite undertakings - and the wall on Southwood Lane running up to the village from the Archway road.)
2. These walls give the village a 'country' feel and are enjoyed especially by pedestrians climbing up to the village. They demarcate it from the areas around and you feel you have arrived in a very different place. Walking up over the Yorkshire flagstone pavement alongside the unbroken length of the Highgate Hill wall is a very special experience.
3. The wall itself is very attractive – its height, unbroken length, colour and the 'stepped' top are particularly pleasing but the current temporary breach in the wall ruins the look and feel of this unique feature. The proposed permanent gate is ugly and unrealistically shown in the application drawing. The fact that the land is rising isn't taken into account in the design of the gate or the piers so the drawing on which the application is based clearly cannot be trusted. Even if the drawing was improved the gate would still unacceptably break the continuity of the wall
4. The application states that it will do away with several parking places on the hill but that alternative parking places can be found elsewhere. This is quite unacceptable – there is not enough parking in Highgate as it is and there are no 'alternative parking places'. Camden's plans for restricting parking even further have met with a great deal of local opposition mainly because of the impact on local businesses in Highgate and the impact on accessibility for the elderly and infirm.
5. The proposed permanent entrance is to allow vehicles onto the school site. Currently vehicle movements onto the site through the temporary breach cause disruption to traffic on the hill as well danger to pedestrians. This will not lessen – in fact it will increase if the temporary breach becomes permanent.
6. While we have not been happy with the temporary breach to the wall, living as we do right across from it, the fact that it was to be just temporary while the construction works were going on was something we could just about put up with (although it has been going on for years). However it now appears that the idea all along was to move from a temporary breach to a permanent gate. It seems the original undertaking to restore the wall with the same carefully retained bricks was not worth the paper it was written on. The experience with the breach in the Cholmeley Park wall shows that, sadly, Channing School's promises and undertakings cannot be relied on.
7. To sum up: we are opposed to the permanent breach because of the continuous, historic attractive wall and its significance to the village; we are opposed to the loss of parking places; we are opposed to the inevitable increase in danger and traffic disruption and we feel that Channing cannot be trusted.



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